Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-11 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9 being independent.

Initially, Applicants request that the Examiner consider the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 6, 2005, and indicate such consideration by initialing and returning a copy of the Form PTO-1449 provided therewith. A copy of that form is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience. In that regard, the Examiner is also requested to consider the documents cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed December 15, 2005, a copy of the corresponding Form PTO-1449 also being attached hereto.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,709,088 (Hayakawa et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a data processing method, whereas independent Claim 6 is directed to a data processing apparatus, independent Claim 8 to a program for controlling an ink jet printing apparatus and independent Claim 9 to an ink jet printing system having an ink jet printing apparatus and a host for supplying print data to the ink jet printing apparatus. The method, program, apparatus and system all relate to performing marginless printing. Each independent claim recites, inter alia, obtaining a value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with marginless printing by counting a number of ink ejections to an overrunning area or counting a number of ink droplets to be

ejected onto the overrunning area. It is respectfully requested submitted that Hayakawa et al. does not disclose or suggest at least these features.

As discussed previously, Hayakawa et al. relates to an ink jet recording apparatus that includes ink-receiver holes for receiving ink discharged from the recording head beyond the edges of a recording medium. The apparatus includes discharged liquid counting means 39 for determining the amount of ink discharged during margin-free printing to each ink-receiver hole. However, as described at col. 9, lines 26-35 and col. 10, lines 43-55 and referring to the table of Fig. 6, it is not individual ink ejections or dischargings that are counted in Hayakawa et al., but rather predetermined values (constants) corresponding to waste ink volume in marginless printing are accumulated. These predetermined values or constants are exemplified in Fig. 6, wherein the discharge liquid count is 3 for "Margin-Free Printing 1 (Single pass, one hole)" and 300 for "Margin-Free Printing 2 (1 line)." At col. 15, lines 19-27, Hayakawa et al. further describes that the predetermined values or constants can be specified corresponding to sizes of the printing medium to be printed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that in Hayakawa et al. it is these predetermined values that are accumulated in margin-free printing. With such a structure, however, the ink volume ejected to an overrunning area cannot be measured precisely. Rather, the accumulated ink volume ejected to the overrunning area is only roughly estimated.

In the "Response to Amendment" in the Office Action, the Examiner contends that, in Hayakawa et al., "the only way for the total volume to be obtained is to accumulate the individual drop volume through the counter (41, i.e., adder)". It must be stressed, however, that accumulation determining means 41 merely receives the count from the discharged liquid accumulating counter 40, which merely receives predetermined constants from discharged liquid counting means 39. None of elements 39, 40 or 41 counts a number of ink ejections or a number of ink droplets to be ejected. Rather, the constants employed by Hayakawa et al. can be used to estimate the number of ink ejections or number of ink droplets.

Accordingly, Hayakawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least obtaining a value equivalent to a waste ink volume associated with marginless printing by counting a number of ink ejections to an overrunning area or by counting a number of ink droplets to be ejected onto the overrunning area, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9.

Therefore, Hayakawa et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9.

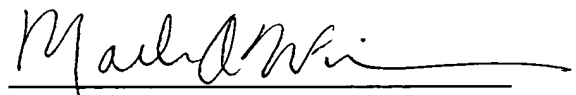
Thus, independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9. Dependent Claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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